REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.
MINISTRY OF CULTURE & GUIDANCE
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF ANTIQUITIES

GUIDE BOOK TO THE MOSUL MUSEUM.

1966

Repulic of Iraq

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Mosul Museum

2nd. Edition [Revised]

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PREFACE

Owing to the fact that the previous issue of this guide-book has gone out-of-print and that some changes have since taken place in the arrangement of the exhibition, it has been found necessary to publish this second revised and enlarged edition which more precisely follow chronoligical order. With this new system and the fresh collection of illustrations, I hope that this work will be more helpful for the visitor to conceive the archaeological values of the exhibits in reconstructing the succession of ancient cultures which flourished in Mesopotamia.

My acknowledgement is due here to Albert Rashid al-Haik, Chief Translator at this Directorate-General for his able efforts in reveiwing the exhibition and preparing the drafts of this guide-book in both Arabic and English versions.

Dr. FAISAL EL-WAILLY
Director-General of
Antiquities

Baghdad, November 1966.

PREFACE

Owing to the fact that the previous issue of this guide-book has been [illegible] and that some changes have since taken place in the arrangement of the exhibition, [illegible] necessary to publish this second revised and enlarged edition [illegible] archaeological [illegible]. With [illegible] Hence that this work [illegible] the archaeological value of [illegible] of ancient [illegible].

[illegible] is due here to [illegible]

Dr. [illegible]
Director General of
Antiquities

[illegible]

MOSUL MUSEUM

In 1950 the Directorate-General of Antiquities was able, in cooperation with the governor of Mosul (Mutasarrif) and its Mayor, to acquire this grand building which was constructed just before the last war as a municipality hall. But since the area of Mosul is well famed for its archaeological relics testifying to the ancient civilation which developed in this Country and had been a major force in Man's progress, it was deemed more fitting to use such a building as "Museum" to house some of these relics. Therefore, we proceeded to recondition it for this purpose and in the following year we finished the organization of the exhibition of the first hall where representative collection of antiquities from two great ancient cities, namely Calah (modern Nimrud) and Hatra wrere displayed. During the celebrations of the millenary of Avicenna, the Museum was opened to the public on 27th March 1952.

In 1958 the Directorate-General of Antiquities expanded the scope of the exhibition by organizing a second hall where a collection of antiquities — outlining the various cultural periods in Iraq from the remote stone ages down to the late Arab/Islamic periods — were exhibited. Thus it is now possible for visitors of this Museum, particularly students, to have a panoramic picture of the long history of this Country.

Prehistoric man settled in the highlands and in the plains of Mosul since the palaeolithic age(1) and has since left remains of his settlement as represented by the numerous mounds littering this area.

In 1942 while the Directorate-General of Antiquities was excavating one of these mounds namely "Tell Hassuna" in the Shora district 30 kilometres to the south of Mosul city, unearthed important archaeological remains indicating the transition of Man from dweling in tents to the earliest known terra pise houses; meanwhile tracing back his progress in ceramics and agriculture.

In the vicinity of Mosul there are several other mounds which date back to 5th and 4th millenniums B.C. One of these is Tell Arpachiya, situated 5 kilometres east of Mosul. Here houses built of sun-dried brick, cobelled streets and a collection of fine pottery dishes exquisitely decorated with polychrome painting in geometrical designs exhibiting a high taste of beauty were discovered. Another mound

(1) Cf, "Sumer", Vol. 8, No. 1 (1952). pp. 114 ff.

is Tepe Gawra, 20 kilometres to the north-east of Mosul, where a village had been established since the Neolithic age and survived until the middle of the second millennium B.C. Still another mound is Grai Resh near Sinjar, where our Department discovered antiquities belonging to the period in which Man in southern Iraq first learned the basic principles of writing during the middle of the fourth millennium B.C. at a time when the whole world, except Egypt, was in total ignorance.

With the beginning of the 3rd millennium B.C. the Assyrians appeared in the Mosul area and settled on the banks of the Tigris and upper Thirthar. Having acquired the ways, means and techniques of Sumerian culture, the Assyrians established their domain and expanded their power. They built flourishing cities and countless villages until their state finally grew into a huge and mighty empire which ruled over the ancient East. In fact, their authority extended during the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. to all countries of the Ancient East from Aswan in Egypt in the west to the shores of the Caspian sea in the east. Their great capitals like Assur (modern Qal'at Shirgat), Calah (Nimrud), Nineveh and Dur-Sharrukin (Khorsabad), became centres of culture and authority to which peoples journeyed from distant places bringing with them the finest and rarest commodities of their countries.

After the downfall of Nineveh in 612 B.C. there emerged many petty states of which the most prominent was the kingdom of Hadyab which sprang up on the remnants of the Assyrian Empire and, from its capital Erbil, expanded gradually to Urfa (Al-Ruha) and to Hatra and thence westwards to the Euphrates.

Now in the heart of this area stands Mosul, one of the foremost flourishing cities of the Republic of Iraq which comes next to the capital Baghdad in magnitude and development.

MOSUL

The city of Mosul[2] is situated on the banks of Tigris some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad. A number of motor roads connect it with different parts of the northern area; this in addition to a railroad which links it with Baghdad and Basrah on one side and with Turkey and Europe on the other side.

The city's main part stands on the western bank of the river and that on the eastern bank is confined between the river side and the ruins of Nineveh. This side of the city is relatively new since its present development began just after War I. These two parts are now

(2) Cf. Awad, Gurgis "*The City of Mosul*" (in Arabic) Government Press, Baghdad 1959.

linked by two fixed steel bridges, of which the upstream one was constructed in 1962 and the other, which is one of the most modern bridges in Iraq, was constructed in 1958. There are several arterial nice streets in the city e.g. Shari' Neynawa, Shari' al-Farooq, Shari' al-Nebi Jerjees, and Shari' ibn al-Atheer. Furthermore, there are public gardens e.g. the public garden and the Martyrs' garden. Among its other landmarks are the Public Library, the Civil Courts, the Railway Station, the College of Medicine, al-Sa'ah and the Mosul Museum.

Historical Glimpse on the City's Origin and Growth :

Several names were given to the city in Antiquity. In the Persian times it was named "Nuwardesheer" or "Buwardesheer". The Christians who had been settleing in it before the Islamic conquest called it "Hissen Abraya" i.e. the Fording Fortress. But when it fell to the Arabs (who eventually expanded it) it was since then named "al-Moosul". Nowadays it is also bynamed as : "Al-Hadbaa" and "Um-ul-Rabbe'ain". The origin of the city is still shrouded with obscurity. It was said that it had been a village in Assyrian times; sometimes said to have been built by the Persians. However, such information as before the Islamic conquest is enigmatic. All that could be thought of its status during that remote period is that it was composed of two quarters one inhabited by the pagan persians and the other by the Christians.

When the Arabs captured the city in the reign of the Calif Omar, it went on expanding and gaining importance being inhabited by the various arab tribes of which the "Azd", "Tamim", "Taghlib", "Hamdan" and "al-Shahwan" may be mentioned. The name of the last tribe is still known to the present time. But most prominent among those tribes is "Khazraj" who settled in Mosul and built the first mosque in this city. Their name is now bestowed on the quarters whose decendants are still occupying it to the present time.

After the Islamic conquest, the city of Mosul attained an important role since it was the base of the Islamic armies which penetrated into Azerbaijan and Armenia. It was much dignified in the times of the Orthodox Caliphs and well famed during the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties, as well as in the times of the petty states which were later established in it, e.g, Beni Hamdan, Beni Aqeel and the Seljuks. But the most important rule at Mosul was that of the Atabegs, especially during the period of the last sultan Badr ud-Din Lu'lu (d. 657 A.H. = 1259 A.D.). After the atabegs Mosul came under the rule of different states e.g. the Jalayrs, the Timurids, the Kara-Ku-yunli, the Ak-Kuyunli and lastly under the Ottoman empire when it was made the seat of one of the three vilayets of Iraq. When Iraq was detached from the

domains of that Empire after War I, Mosul became one of the cities of the nascent state Iraq" and the metropolis of one of its fourteen Liwas (provinces) which is the largest most densly populated and exuberant province.

In the Islamic period, Mosul enjoyed much fame in the fields of industry and trade. It had been renowned in history for its excellent products such as the "muslin" textile — with which the ancient europeans were quite familiar — copper articles and inlay craftworks of which many examples may be still surviving in leading museums of the world.

The visitor to this city sees many historical buildings such as mosques, churches, schools, palaces and other ancient buildings. The architecture, mural decorations and inscriptions of some of these buildings have special archaeological interest. The following are some examples of same :

1. The Amawid Mosque :

This is the most ancient mosque of Mosul. It was built by 'Utba b. Farqad al-Selmi after he captured the city. It is now situated in the al-Kawwazeen quarter and known as "Jami" al-Masfi". However, nothing survived of the mosque except its minaret which stands some 150 metres off the al-Masfi mosque. The extant height of this minaret, which is named "The minaret of al-Kawwazeen mosque" or the broken minaret, is about ten metres.

In the Atabegs times, this mosque was known as the "Old Mosque". But, before that time it was known as "The Umayyad Mosque" since the Calif Marwan b. Muhammad ordered its rebuilding in the second century. However, still earlier the mosque was known as "al-masjid al-Jami' ". The current nomenclature (Jami' al-Masfi) originates from the fact that, in 1255 A.H. (1839 A.D.) pilgrim Muhammad, the gold purifier(1) renewed the building of this mosque which was since then identified by his name.

In 1344 A.H. (1925 A.D.) the Directorate-general of Awqaf repaired it as it now stands.

2. The Noori Mosque :

This mosque was built in 568 A.H. (1172 A.D.) by the sultan Nur ud-Din Mahmood b. Imad ud-Din Zangi. Subsequently some of its parts were repaired in different times; the last being in 1944. The most prominent member of this mosque is the minaret which is the highest in Iraq. It is more than fifty metres high. This minaret is

(1) In Arabic "Musaffi al-Dahab".

conspicuously leaning towards the east. It has no inscription, however it is gracefully decorated.

3. The Nebi Jerjis Mosque :

This is one of the ancient mosques of Mosul, now situated near Suk al-Sha'areen and it is said to contain the tomb of al-Hur ben Yusuf the Umayyad governor of Mosul. Several beautiful relies are found in this mosque e.g. the inscriptions of various periods, the marble sarcophagus with exquisite carvings and the woodden door of the tomb room (now on display in the Museum of Arab Antiquities, Baghdad). This mosque had been visited by two arab travellers namely Ibn Jubair(1) and Ibn Batuta(2).

4. The Mausoleum of the Imam Yahya abil-Qasim :

This building, which is a relic of the seventh century A.H. (13th century A.H.), is situated on the river bank near **Bash'abia** in the northern section of Mosul. It was built by the sultan Bar ud-Din Lu'lu as indicated by the mural inscription found on the right side of the entrance to the hall.

5. Of the other buildings of Sultan Badr ud-Din Lu'lu now seen at Mosul are :

a. The mausoleum of Ali al-Asghar, son of the Imam Muhammad b. al-Hanafiya. This building now stands in the quarter of al-Jami' al-Kabeer.

b. The mausoleum of the Imam Awn ud-Din, also known as the mausoleum of Ibn al-Hassan. It is situated in the quarter bearing the same name, and was built in 640 A.H. (1242 A.D.).

c. The mausoleum and mosque of the Imam Bahir. This building is situated in the Bab al-Masjid quarter near Tell Knas.

6. Qara Serai :

Perhaps the most celebrated building made by Badr ud-Din Lu'lu at Mosul is his palace whose ruins now known as "Qara Serai". These ruins are situated on the western bank of the Tigris and are composed of a massive wall with the remains of two vaulted halls. In the northern hall there are inscriptions partly defaced. But the best legible part thereof is the band of inscription, running on to the three walls of the hall, which contains obvious reference to the builder. Under these inscriptions there are relief picture in gypsum depicting human

(1) Cf. "Travels of Ibn Jubair" in arabic) p. 230.

(2) Cf. "Travels of Ibn Batuta" (in arabic) 2 : 136.

seated figures analogous to those usualy seen on Ilkanid coins. There is also a large-size inscription on the wall overlooking the river also containing a similar reference as to the originator of the edifice.

7. Ancient Churches :

In Mosul, there are a number of ancient churches of which the most important is that of Sham'oun al-Safa in the Mayyasa quarter. This is the most ancient church at Mosul whose style is datable to the 13th century A.D. The al-Tahra al-Tahtaniyah near Bash Tabiya whose building was renewed in 1743 A.D.; the Mar Ahudemi, the Mar Phetyon, the al-Bay'ah al-Atiqa in the Qal'a quarter, the al-Tahra al-Fawqaniyah in the border of the city and the Mar Isha'ya, are some examples of these churches to mention here.

8. Bash Tabiya :

In bygone days Mosul had a fortification wall with several gates, notably Bab al-Jisr, Bab al-Tob, Bab al-Baydh, Bab-Sinjar and the al-Bab al-Imadi. In 1915 this wall was demolished and the remainder was totally erased in 1934 except for a fragment of the structure in the northern side of the city which is part of a fort over-looking River Tigris now named "Bash Tabiya".

9. Nineveh and the Nergal gate Museum :

On the eastern side of the city the remains of the historical site Nineveh are still marked. They comprise three elements : 1—Tell-Quyunjuk 2— Tell Nebi Yunis, on which now stands the mosque of Nebi Yunis, and the remains of the wall of Nineveh.

In 1941 the Directorate-General of Antiquities uncovered one of the gates in this wall known as "Nergal Gate"; meanwhile exposing the two colossi bulls found in situ flanking either side of the gateway. In 1956 the antiquities Department reconstructed this gate to its original design and utilized the building as site museum where samples of assyrian sculpture and informative maps showing the rise and progress of the assyrian empire are now on display for visitors.

From the above, it is quite evident that the area of Mosul has a long eventful history of ancient civilizations and it is reckoned as one of the most rich archaeological areas in Iraq.

NIMRUD

The ruins of Nimrud are situated 5 kilometres off the eastern side of the river Tigris and 35 kilometres due south of Mosul. As already mentioned, these ruins mark the site of the famous assyrian capital

"Calah" from which antiquities are displayed in Hall No. 1 in this Museum. This city which had flourished during the 9th and 8th centuries B.C., has a large massive wall with a number of gates of which traces are now noticeable on the site. In the southwestern part of the site there is a large mound incorporating the temple area, the palaces and the Ziggurat (the staged tower) of which the extant remains stand some 17 metres above ground level. This Ziggurat is built of sun-dried bricks on stone foundation.

Calah was considerably expanded in the reign of Ashur Nasirpal II (883—859 B.C.) who built in it palaces and temples. He also constructed a stone embankment along the river bank and dug out a canal bringing water to this city from the uppar Zab River. He adopted it as capital city of the assyrian empire and it remained as such until the reign of Sargon II (721—705 B.C.) who elected to move the seat of the capital to Nineveh and thence to Dur-Sharrukin. Nevertheless, Calah retained its importance since it was the centre for the worship of "Ninurta" the goddess of war and victory. Therefore, it remained as the chief military base of the assyrian armies and, in the last days of the assyrian empire, it formed the advance defensive line for Nineveh, the last of the assyrian capitals.

Nimrud was first excavated on behalf of the British Museum more than one century ago, when Sir Austin Henry Layard, started work on this site in November 8, 1845. The excavations continued until March 1855 then suspended on account of the crimean war. Thereafter excavations were resumed intermittently until 1949 when Professor Max E.L. Mallowan, Professor of the Near Eastern Studies in the University of London and Head of the expedition of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq reinauguarted systematic diggings on this site. These excavations, which are being continued every year, brought to light extensive buildings of king Ashur Nasirpal II and of his son Shalmanezzar III and of other assyrian kings. In these places large collections of various antiquities were discovered, including the magnificient ivory objets d'art.

It is noteworthy to mention here the restoration works carried-out by the Directorate-General of Antiquities on this site. These works comprise the restoration of the throne Hall in the palace of Ashur Nasirpal II and the re-installation of the huge sculptured slabs in their original places against the walls.

HATRA

The ancient city Hatra, yeilded the greater part of the exhibits in this Museum which came through the excavations conducted by the

Directorate-General of Antiquities. The ruins of this historical city stand on the Wadi Thirthar 70 kilometres west of Gayyara. These ruins are unique among the historical remains in this Country in that all its palaces, temples, fortifications and most of the other buildings are built of hewn stone. The city is of a round layout enclosed by a double fortification wall. The inner wall is about 6 kilometres long and in its centre there is a vast temple area enclosed by a rectangular wall. There are also in this city other small temples, palaces of nobility, stadium racce-course and an inexhaustible pond. . In the eastern part of the city there are towery stone tumului.

The vast ruins of Hatra, embodying the hoards of important statuary and antiquities remained for the past many years out of the sphere of archaeological excavations. In 1951 our Department directed its archaeological excavations towards these ruins and, therefore, sent an expendition to Hatra under the leadership of sayid Fuad Safar, assisted by sayid Mohammad Ali Mustafa. The digging were initiated in March 7, 1951 and continued for five consecutive spring seasons through June 15, 1955. These excavations together with the subsequent restoration operations being done on these ruins since 1960, led to the discovery of many antiquities and facts elucidating the artistic, industrial, literary, and religious facets of the culture which flourished in this city. These artifacts, which will be described later, are now on display in this museum. However another big collection of statues and objects found its way to the Iraq Museum, Baghdad; whereas a good deal of statues are still lying in the magazines at Hatra suposed to form the nucleus of site museum·

The date and circumstances of the foundation of this city are not yet established. However, the present ruins were built during the period from the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C. to the 1st century A.D. But, this place had been the locus of Arab bedouins settlement in the time of the Assyrians. In those days the Arab and Aramaic tribes were wandering about in the desert between the Euphrates and Tigris in the area known in antiquity "Arbaya" which means "the land of the Arabs". In the days of raging conflict between the Roman and the Parthio-Persian empires in the Near East many towns, other than Hatra, grew-up on the fringes of the Syrian desert and the Fertile Crescent such as Dura Europus (modern al-Salihiyah), al-Rusafa, Palmyra, Busra, Jeresh, and Petra (ancient Sala'). Hatra had been benefiting from this conflict by receiving money from both parties. It also controlled the trade routes between the East and West. Both Chinese and Indian goods comprising silks, porcelain, perfumes, precious stones, and rare woods were brought by boats to Seleucia, then on

the Tigris opposite Ctesiphon, and therefrom were taken by Hatrian merchants on camels' back by caravan routes to Sinjar, Nisibin and Antioch via Hatra. This situation helped much the flourishing of Hatra and its prosperity.

Hatra is much famed in Roman literature in that it withstood the sway of two powerful imperial armies namely that of Trajan and Septimus Severus. Trajan however, succeeded in subduing it peacefully in 116 A.D.; but later it rebelled against him. He, therefore, besiged it but, failing to overcome it again, he withdrew and returned home. Septimus Severus also besieged it for a long time but, owing to the militant spirit of Hatrean people and to the city's strong fortifications, he failed to capture it. The people of Hatra were valiant warriors who invented new techniques in warfare, namely the Hatrean Fire., These were fire grenades made of bitumen and sulphur were quite effective. Hatra, for yet unknown reasons, finally collapsed and fell to the Sassanian king Sapur I in about 270 A.D. Following a prolonged siege, his forces sacked the city and destroyed it for ever.

The antiquities of Hatra bear a special significance. They represent Hellenistic civilization which was the outcome of the fusion of ancient oriental cultures such as the Babylonian, Assyrian, Persian and the Egyptian cultures through the conquests of Alexander the Great. As a result of this fusion, new trends of thoughts came into being which affected, more or less, every aspect of life, namely the beliefs, the arts, the science and the social, economic and political systems. Such trends spread all over the eastern countries including the Arabian Peninsula.

Since remote times, there have been relations between Iraq and Arabia. It is known that the Sumerians traded with the esatern parts of the Arabian peninsula. The Assyrians, as well, had trade and political relations with the tribes of northern Hijaz especially during the reign of Sargon II (721—705 B.C.) who refers to Thamud tribes in his cuneiform records. Moreover, it is an established fact that a number of deities, worshipped in the Ka'ba just before the advent of Islam, e.g. Hubal, al-Uzza and Al-Lat had their origin in Babylonia. Hubal, for instance, whose idol was erected inside the Ka'ba is the Babylonian god "Bel" prefixed with the Nabatian definitive article "ha". The idols of these dieties were brought also from Babylonia. And, according to al-Azraqi, author of the famous book about Mecca, the idol of Hubal was imported to Ka'ba from Hit on the Euphrates. It is evident, therefore, that the excavations at Hatra are of major importance since, the discovery of many inscriptions, (mainly aramaic),

artifacts and buildings will help us to elucidate not only the pre-Islamic history of ancient Iraq but also enlighten us about the conditions of the Arabs before the rise of Islam.

The name of the late father Anistas al-Karmali is most worthily mentioned here for his great collection of precious printed books and manuscripts which were turned over to the Directorate-General of Antiquities by his colleagues the Carmelities of Baghdad. Some 5500 printed volumes of this collection were transferred to Mosul, constituting the nucleus of the Mosul Museum Library.

The Exhibits of the Mosul Museum

Hall No. 1

The exhibits in this Hall fall in the following three categories:—

1. Assyrian antiquities of the 9th and 8th centures B.C., all discovered at Nimrud[5].
2. Antiquities of the Parthian period discovered at Hatra (2nd century B.C. — Middle of the 3rd century A.D.). This group forms the greater part of the exhibits in this gallery.
3. Informative material, e.g. drawings, maps and pictures relative to the excavation and historical periods of exhibits in this gallery.

Note : The visit begins from the right side with the wall cases then with the central cases[6].

The Assyrian Antiquities

Case — 1 (To the left side of the entrance.)

Assyrian pottery wares of various shapes and techniques mostly discovered at Nimrud in the palaces of Ashurnasirpal II and Shalmanezzar III (9th century B.C.).

MM. 1[*]

The throne base of the Assyrian king Ashurnasirpal II (883—859 B.C.); discovered at his capital Calah (Nimrud). The cuneiform inscriptions covering its suface give a summary of his deeds.

MM. 3

Offering table, in hewn stone, found in the plain within Nineveh's wall. On one side there is cuneiform inscription and on the other side there is Greek inscription.

Case — 2

— Ivory works of art, delicately carved. Most of these pieces were used in decorating wooden thrones and beds of the Assyrian kings (9th century B.C.).

(5) Except for the stone offering table which was discovered at Nineveh.

(6) This order does not apply to the Assyrian exhibits which are shown in the forepart of this gallery.

(*) MM. stand for Mosul Museum; the numeral after this symbol is the serial number of object in the register of Mosul Museum.

In the other side of the case :

— Marble slab engraved with cuneiform inscription recording the deeds of Ashurnasirpal II. Discovered at Nimrud and datable to the 9th century B.C. (MM. 1035).

— Flint arrow heads and miscellaneous small objects from the royal palaces at Nimrud.

MM. 3

Stele of Ashurnasirpal II in rare yellow stone engraved with the picture of the king and symbols of Assyrian gods (from right to left : Sin, Ashur, Ishtar, Enlil, Adad and Sebitti). The cuneiform inscription engraved on this stele summarizes the achievements of the Assyrian monarch and mentions the wide canal he dug to bring irrigation water from the Upper Zab to his new capital Calah and surrounding plains. The inscription concludes with the description of the lavish feast to whicr 69000 persons were invited on the occasion of having completed the building of his capital and the irrigation project.

Antiquities from Hatra

Case — 3

Head of a stone statue portraying a nobleman of Hatra, named Abd-Sumaya son of Wardanab (?), son of Shalay. This statue was discovered in the temple of Baalshamin at Hatra and datable to ca. 1st century A.D. (MM. 20).

MM. 4

Unusual type of Hercules statue, one of the dieties of Hatra; shown carrying a lion's skin on his left arm with a club in his right hand. Found in one of the temples at Hatra. (ca. 1st century A.D.).

Case — 4

Statue of a lady named "Sumay", erected in her memory by her husband in a temple at Hatra. The skill with which the drapery has been executed is remarkable. She is also shown wearing a necklace and holding with her left hand a disc presumeably a symbal.

The aramaic inscriptions on the base contain the following rendering :

" Image of Sumay, daughter of Aja, son of Ashtati, son of Salik.

" Which was erected by Aja

" Her husband, son of Abba the priest of Atarata

" Abba Jalaf, son of Aja-Zarqa.

(MM. 21.).

Case — 5

A fine statue of Hercules, shown holding a club with his right hand and a lion's skin on his left arm. This sculpture manifests the sculptor's mastery in displaying the features of strength which Hercules symbolizes: (MM. 22).

MM. 5

A king of Hatra wearing the characteristic crown. He holds in his left hand an acanthus leaf and in the other an object probably symbolizing fertility. The dexterity with which the girdle is decorated with circles is quite remarkable. The figures in the two frontal circles represent the sun and moon gods.

Case — 6

A sample of the graffiti found on the temple walls at Hatra. This plaque shows the signs of the Zodiac with the sun and moon and the Great Dipper in the centre (MM. 15).

MM. 12

A cylindrical marble casket engraved with leaf decoration, found in the temple of Baalskamin at Hatra. It was used for depositing gifts especially coins for which a slot is provided in the lid.

Case — 7

A stone slab with high relief depicting three maids probably symbolizing three seasons : Spring, Summer and Autmn. The one to the left is carrying a disc, probably a musical instrument. (MM. 24.).

Case — 8

An alabaster relief depicting a lady presumeably representing the moon goddess as evidenced by the crescent seen at the base of the picture. This image, which was found fixed onto the wall

of a temple at Hatra, shows the extent to which the high standard of sculpture was attained. (MM. 26).

MM. 6 and 7

A composite image in high relief found together in one of the temples at Hatra. The right slab shows the sun god "Mithra" the idol of the army, with military decorations; one hanging in front of the chest with two more medals containing the picture of an eagle attached to each shoulder. On the forehead there is two small horns symbolizing divinity and an aureole behind the head. The sculptor was successful in representing in this relief the expressions of power and youth.

The other slab represents in 3—quarter relief the city's standard in the form of eagle. This eagle is seen wearing a band and necklace. The aramaic inscription on the pedestal contains the following rendering : 1. The symbols of the god Maran, 2. and Summayah of the house of Aqba. (1st century A.D.).

MM. 8

Statue of Uthal, king of Hatra, wearing the traditional crown and a fur coat over a lavishly decorated garment. From his left side hangs down a sword on which his left hand rests, while the other hand is raised in salutation. The aramaic inscription on the pedestal contains : "Statue of Uthal, the generous king, the governor, the worshipper of god, the blessed by Him". (1st century A.D.).

MM. 11

A marble panel with unique figures in painted bas-relief including a curious beast representing a three-headed dog with snake tail. This is presumeably the dog mentioned in Greek mythology by the name "Cerberus" which was the attendant of Hades the god of the underworld. It is, therefore, conjectured that the main figure in this slab to which the beast is leashed represents the god of the underworld at Hatra or the custodian of fire. To the left of this figure appears his consort seated on a throne flanked by two crouchant lions with an eagle over her head and the banner of Hatra in her left hand. At the extreme left of the slab the banner of Hatra is seen. Scorpions and snakes are also depicted in different places of this panel. (ca. 1st century A.D.).

MM. 10

Fire altar with aramaic inscription engraved on the front side.

Case — 9

Stone relief containing the bust of a chieftain of Hatra, found in association with some idols in one of the temples of Hatra· (ca. 1st century A.D.) MM. 27.

Case — 10

A young lady of Hatra. Her head-dress and bosoms are covered with thin gold foil. She is wearing large earrings with red paint applied to her lips, these features manifest the exuberant and luxurious life enjoyed by the people of Hatra. This statue was discovered in one of the temples of Hatra and datable to the 1st century A.D. M. 28.

Cases — 11

Mural aramaic inscription found on a wall in Baalshmin temple at Hatra. Its rendering is as follows:—

1· To perpetuate the memory of Aquba the great son of Abd Shalma before the god Baalshamin the king.

2. To perpetuate the memory of Habusa, the architect, son of Abad son of Unay, before the god Baalshamin the king. This inscription is datable to ca. 1st century A.D. (MM. 34).

MM. 13

Marble casket for depositing gifts and offerings. On the lid there is an inscription giving the name "Kunzay" who presented it to one of the temples of Hatra. (Ca. 1st. century A.D·).

MM. 14

Statue of a nobleman of Hatra in limestone. The garments are decorated with bunches of grapes and vine leaves. His right hand is placed on the hilt of the sword which hangs down from his belt. Discovered in the temple of Baalshamin and datable to ca. 1st century A.D.

Case — 12

Statue of a human figure representing a diety of Hatra. The two small horns on either side of the forehead symbolize divinity. This figure is shown wearing a necklace of rare stones; his left hand holding a spear, and a sword is held with the right hand. The

aramaic inscription on the pedestal could be rendered as follows:—

"Made by Kunzay, son of Ubay son of Knzay, to be well remembered".

(ca. 1st century A.D.) (MM. 34).

MM. 15

A fire altar in marble, found in one of the temples of Hatra. (ca. 1st century A.D.).

Case — 13

Statue of a semi-nude female. Her mantle, is gracefully hanging down from her shoulders. The headress resembles a crown. Discovered in one of the temples of Hatra and datable to the 1st century A.D. (MM. 35).

Case — 14

An idol representing the goddess Nanai, bearing aramic inscription on its back, of which the rendering reads as follows:—

"Judaih ibn Zarqa has carved the statue of Nanai for the life of Nashr Yahab. May he be well remembered".

Discovered at Hatra and datable to 1st century A.D. (MM. 36).

MM. 16

A fire altar with relief carving depicting a human figure resembling the "fire custodian" appearing in MM. 11. He is shown holding two serpents with the left hand and an axe with the other hand.

Case — 15

Statue of a youth from Hatra found in one of the temples where he is supposed to obtain blessing. In his right hand there is a long stick and in his left hand an acanthus leaf is seen. (ca. 1st century A.D.). MM. 37.

MM. 244

A cylindrical milestone engraved with roman inscription giving the name of Maximus Severus. Discovered near Sinjar and datable to the 3rd century A.D.

Case — 16

This case contains the following miscellaneous objects from Hatra:—

- Three female heads in limestone, of the 1st century A.D. (MM. 48, 49 and 50).
- Stone object engraved with human figure. Probably a fire altar. (MM. 42).
- Two alabaster blocks of which other specimens were found in the temples of Hatra. It is believed that such stones were worshipped in the same manner as idols. (ca· 1st century A.D.) MM. 44. a & b.
- Two jars representative of the Hatra pottery wares, ca. 2nd century A.D.
- Stone casket with a slot in the lid for droping coins and gifts in the temples of Hatra. (ca. 1st century A.D.) MM. 45.

In the Middle of the Hall

MM. 18

Lion statue found lying in front of a temple at Hatra· (ca 1st century A.D.)

Case — 17

This case contains various small objects from Hatra :

- Collection of coins from Hatra, comprising 3 groups : Roman, Parthian and those coins minted at Hatra itself. (1st & 2nd centuries A.D.)
- Metal weight with aramaic inscription recording the weight of "40 asa" (ca. 1st century A.D.)
- Iron spear heads, etc.

Case — 18

Headless statue of a warrior from Hatra. In his right hand there is a spear and the left hand is holding the hilt of the sword which hangs down from the belt. This statue was found in one of the temples of Hatra where it was set-up to be under the patronage of the gods. (ca. 1st century A.D.) MM. 38.

MM. 17

Unusual type of fire altar from Hatra, shaped as a column. (ca. 1st century A.D.)

Case — 19

A warrior in Roman uniform seen holding a spear with one hand and the other hand rests on the hilt of his sword. (MM. 19).

Case — 20

This case contains various objects from Hatra :

— Symbolic statue in white alabaster, probably representing a diety of Hatra. (MM. 43).

— Fragment of a female statue comprising a life size hand in snow-white alabaster. (MM. 46).

— Three quarter relief in veined alabaster showing tree girls with similar hair dressing and garments. The head of the one to the right is surrounded by a halo. (MM. 53)

— Statue of a seated female, head is missing. She is wearing a necklace. Artistically, this work is considered as one of the best among the statuary of Hatra. (1st century A.D.) MM. 52

— Fragment of a statue of a female in translucent white alabaster. (MM. 54).

— A headless statue in alabaster showing the lower part of a warrior. (MM. 51).

— Bowl in white marble, decorated with incisions. The base is engraved with aramaic inscription meaning "Presented by Abid Jiddy". Discovered at Hatra. (MM. 47)

— A magnificient marble relief, depicting three girls presumeably representing three seasons of the year : Spring, Summer and and Autumn. The male figure may be representing Winter in the form of one of the Hatranian gods.

Datable to the 1st century A.D. (MM. 40)

— Fragment of a marble statue, comprising the lower part of a warrior. (MM. 55).

— A crudely carved statue designed to represent Hercules. Discovered at Hatra and datable to 1st century A.D. (MM. 39)

MM. 9

Another example of "fire altar" with traces of burnt incense material on top. The front side of this object is engraved with the banner of Hatra.

Hall No. 2

(Stone ages — Pre-Islamic era)

Case — 1

(Frim right to left and from bottom to top.)

Shelf 1 :

— Coup de points in flint, discovered at Barda Balka, near Chememal and datable to approximately 100,000 years ago. These objects were used by the ston-age Man for self-defence, hunting animals, wood cutting, etc.

— Flint implements comprising knives, scrapers, and awls; discovered in the caves of Zarzi and Hazar Merd near Sulaimaniya. Datable to ca. 20,000 years ago.

— Collection of clay figurines representing the earliest known samples of plastic art in Iraq· Discovered at Jarmo and datable to the 6th millenium B.C.

— Sickle made of serrated flint blades; reconstructed in the Laboratory of the Directorate General of Antiquities. Discovered at Hassuna and datable to the beginning of the 5th millenium B.C.

— Another example of sickle with serrated flint blade from Tell Asmar in the ancient region of Eshnunna. Third millennium B.C.

— Two iron sickles, discovered at Nimrud. 8th century B.C.

Shelf 2 :

— Flint arrow-heads and obsidian knives and cores of the 5th millennium B.C., found at Arpachiya and Tepe Gawra in the Mosul district·

— Spindle whorls in baked clay and bone implements, found at Arpachiyah. Ca. 5000 B.C.

— Axes made of over-baked clay. Datable to the Ubaid period, ca. 4000 B.C.

— Various objects of baked clay including sickles and axes. Discovered at Tell Uqair. (Ca. 4000 B.C.)

— Two pestles in basalt, for pounding grains· From Hassuna and Tepe Gawra. (5th Millennium B.C.)

Shelf 3 :

— Flint implements from the lower levels at Tell Quyunjuk. (Ca. 4500 B.C.)

— Celts, spear heads and knives, partly discovered at Kish near Hilla.

— Two hoes in stone. On one of them there are traces of bitumen. They were used in harrowing the ground and covering the seeds. Discovered at Hassuna. (5th millennium B.C.)

— Net sinkers in baked clay and stone· (ca. 4000 B.C.)

Shelf 4 :

— Hand axes, in stone. Datable to the Ubaid period. (Ca. 4000 B.C.)

— Quern stone in basalt for grinding grains. From Hassuna (5th millennium B.C.)

— Husking tray made of baked clay and a fragment of a similar tray; both discovered at Hassuna and datable to the 5th millennium B.C.

Case — 2

Shelf 1 :

Pottery vessels found at Tell Hassuna. (Ca. 5000 B.C.)

Shelf 2 :

Pottery objects with polychrome paintings· Discovered at Arpachiya and datable to the Halaf period (Ca. 4500 B.C.)

Shelf 3 :

Pottery vessels with polychrome painting; discovered at Tepe Gawra and datable to the Halaf period (Ca. 4500 B.C.)

Shelf 4 :

— Samples of painted wares from a pre-historic cemetery at Samarra. (Ca. 4500 B.C.)

— Different pottery vessels of the Ubaid period, including cups, plates and jars. Discovered at Abu Shahrain (ancient Eridu) and datable to Ca. 4000 B.C.

— Painted pottery sherds peculiar to a site called "Qal'at Haj Mohammed" near Warka· Early Ubaid period, Ca. 4000 B.C.

Case — 3

This case contains various terra-Cotta objects of different provenances and periods. Most remarkable pieces are in :

Shelf 1 :

Figurine of nude female representing "Ishtar" the Akkadian goddess of fertility.

Shelf 2 :

Masks of genii and attendant spirits, also painted figurines from Warka. (Ca. 4000 B.C.)

Sehlf 3 :

— Painted figurines of the Ubaid period, discovered at Warka and datable to the 4th millennium B.C.

— Collection of toys and figurines of the Hellenistic period in Iraq (3rd Century A.D.)

Case — 4

Shelf 1 :

Two Jars from Warka in plain pottery, and a fragment of wall decoration made of painted cones. This technique represents the oldest mosaic decoration known in temples of the Uruk period. (Ca. 3500 B.C.)

Shelf 2 :

Pottery jar decorated with polychrome painting. Discovered at Tell al-'Uqair and datable to the Jamdat Nasr period (End of the 4th millenium B.C.)

Shelves 3 & 4 :

Pottery vessels with symbolic lugs representing the "mother-goddess". A fruit stand is also seen among the collection. Datable to the Early Dynastic period (3000—2500 B.C.)

Two samples of carved pottery vessels in greyish ware, discovered at Nineveh, representing the fine pottery industry common in the Mosul district in the beginning of the 3rd millennium B.C.

Case — 5

(Vertical part)

Shelf 1 :

— Two silver cups (stuck together) found in the Royal Cemetery at Ur; dating back to the Early Dynastic period (Ca. 2660 B.C.)

— Copper vessels, mostly from Ur. Datable to the Early Dynastic and Akkadian periods (Ca. 3000—2300 B.C.)

Shelf 2 :

— Collection of copper axes, used by the Sumerians for various purposes.

— Cast of a copper quadriga with four onagers driven by a Sumerian man of distinction. The original quadriga — now on display in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad — was discovered in the great temple at Tell Asmar, and datable to the Early Dynastic period (Ca. 2600 B.C.)

Shelf 3 :

(Rright side)

Copper statuettes, including a bust of Assyrian male, probably a king. (9th Century) B.C.)

(Left side)

Examples of oil lamps in copper, used in ancient temples and residence houses. One of these lamps, found at Ur, is of the Early Dynastic period (Ca. 2600 B.C.); others are of the Assyrian period (9th Century B.C.)

(Horizontal part)

Collection of various copper objects including mirrors, figurines, spear heads, adzes, sickles, harpoons, fishing hooks, nails and bangles. These artifacts are of different periods.

On the floor (near Case — 5)

Two bricks stamped with cuneiform insoription; the smaller one belongs to the Sumerian king Amar-sin who records his building of the temple at Nippur. (Ca. 2000 B.C.). The bigger one, found at Babylon, contains inscription belonging to king Nebuchadnezzar II. (Ca. 600 B.C.).

On the floor (near Case — 6)

Stone door-socket engraved with cueneiform text giving the name of King Qurigalzu II and recording his construction of the royal palace in his capital "Dur-Kurigalzu". It was discovered during the excavations at Aqer Quf (the site of the Kassite Capital city Dur-Kurigalzu). 14th Century B.C.

Case — 6

This case contains examples of various inscriptions mostly in cuneiform script on clay tablets. This collection also includes pottery bowls with aramaic texts and memorial stone with Safaitic inscription.

Vertical Part :

Shelf 1 : (from left to right) :

— Pottery cone with cuneiform text of "Warad-sin, King of Larsa, giving the name of the temple he built for Ishtar in about 1800 B.C.

— Four pottery nails with cuneiform text of Gudea, governor of Lagash who presented the temple "GISU" to the god "Nin-Gish-Zida". (Ca. 2050 B.C.)

Shelf 2 :

— Cast of the code of laws, codified by "Bilalama", king of Eshnunna in about 2000 B.C. i.e. two centuries before the time of Hamurabi. The orginal artifact, which is in clay now on display in the Iraq Museum Baghdad, was discovered during the excavations of the Directorate General of Antiquities at Tell Harmal (in New Baghdad.)

— Pottery cylinder covered all round with cuneiform inscription describing the construction works of king Sennacherib at Nineveh (705—681 B.C.). It was found beneath the foundations of the Nergal gate at Nineveh.

Shelf 3 :

— Cast of a clay tablet containing a remarkable mathematical text found during the excavations of the Directorate-General of Antiquities at Tell Harmal. The illustrated text involves a geometric problem of similar triangles described by a perpendicular drawn from the right angle to the hypotenuse. (One of Euclid's Theorems). This artifact dates back to the Old Babylonian period, ca. 2000 B.C. i.e. 17 centuries before Euclid.

— Three pottery bowls inscribed in black ink with aramaic inscription containing incantation text. (Ca. 5th Century A.D.).

Horizontal part :

— Examples of clay tablets containing the earliest known Sumerian inscription in its pictographic stage. They date back to the Jamdat Nasr period, ca. 3500 B.C.

— Round clay tablets with cuneiform inscription containing exercise school text. Some of these tablets were found at Tell Harmal. (Old Babylonian period, ca. 2000 B.C.)

— Seal impressions on clay jar-stoppers, from the Early Dynastic level at Warka and from other sites. (3rd millennium B.C.)

— Volcanic yellow stone engraved with Safaitic, inscription used as boundary stone of a tribal estate. It was found at Gurraiyat near al-Nakhib, south-west of Kerbala. The Safaitic characters are derived from the South Semitic script, and was known after "as-Safa" a region in Syria where such inscription was first discovered. (Of the first three centuries A.D.)

Case — 7

Cast of a bronze head portraying an Akkadian king (probably Sargon I or Naram-Sin). The original head now on display in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad, was discovered at Nineveh in the Ishtar temple. (Ca. 2000 B.C.)

Case — 8

Gold jewellery and other fineries of a sumerian lady found in the royal tomb at Ur. They are mounted on a wooden manikin according to the original arrangement. (ca. 2600 B.C.).

Case — 9

A group of various pottery objects, including bowls, oil lamps and water flasks, belonging to different periods (3000—200 B.C. Most notably are :

— Two bowls in burnished grey pottery; decorated with incised pattern filled with white material. They represent a technique characteristic of the Guthian period (ca. 2350 B.C.)

— Model boats in terra — cotta used by sumerians for ritual purposes. Datable to the Early Dynastic period (ca. 2600 B.C.)

— Oil-lamps in plain or glazed pottery found at Tell Omar (ancient Seleucia) and Babylon in the Hellenistic levels. (2nd Century B.C.).

Case — 10

(Vertical Section)

Shelf 1 :

— Collection of early sumerian stone statues discovered at Ur, Tell Asmar and Khafaje (Ca. 2800 B.C.).

— Cast of a copper statue with cuneiform inscription representing the sumerian king "Ur-Nammu", founder of the third dynasty of Ur. This statue was used as foundation deposit in public buildings. The original statue was found at Nippur and now on display in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad. (Ca. 2050 B.C.).

Shelf 2 :

— Examples of sumerian sculpture among which are gods and priests. They were found in Tell Asmar and Khafaje and date back to Early Dynastic period (Ca. 2800 B.C).

— A bowl in white marble ornamented with mother-of-pearl and shell inlay. Discovered at Khafaje and dating back to Early Dynastic period (Ca. 2800 B.C.).

— Three oil-lamps in shell and stone, discovered at Kish and Tel Ajrab. Datable to the Early Dynastic period. (Ca. 2600 B. C.).

Horizontal Seciton (Eastern Side) :

Collection of various objects in gold and silver among which are bead necklaces, cosmetic outfit, vanity pins, gaming boards, etc. They were discovered at Ur, Warka, Eridu and Tell Asmar; and datable to the third Early Dynatic period (Ca. 2600 B.C.).

Shelf 2 : (Western side) :

Further examples of sumerian sculpture, and a collection of stone mace-heads, of which few are inscribed with cuneiform texts. Ca. 2800 B.C.

Shelf 2: Western side) :

Further examples of Sumerian sculpture, and a collection of stone mace-heads some of them with cuneiform inscription. Ca. 2800 B.C.

Collection of jewellery in silver and shell bead necklaces and inlay pieces; found at : Ur, Warka, Tell Ajrab, Tell Asmar and Khafaje. Datable to Early Dynastic period (Ca. 2800 — 2600 B. C.).

Case — 11

Vertical Section

Shelves 1 & 2 (Western side)

— Collection of stone vessels, among which are cups and jars. Mostly discovered at Ur and datable to the Early Dynastic period (3rd millennium B.C.)

— Alabaster vase with sumerian inscription recording the property of the goddess "NIN-GAL". Discovered at Ur and datable to about 2800 B.C.

Shelf 3 :

— Stone duck-weights, including two small specimens in onyx and carnalian, discovered at Tell al-Der. These are considered to be standard weights deposited in the temples for ocasional reference. (3rd millennium B.C.)

— Cast of a diorite duck-weight engraved with cuneiform inscription mentioning the name of king Shulgi, the second king of the Third dynasty of Ur and the god "Nannar" the deity of the same city. This piece weights "5 manna", a weight in sumerian standards equalling about half kilogramme. Datable to about 2030 B.C.

— Collection of stone sculptures, among which are statues from Babylon and Tell Omar (Seleucia). Datable to the Hellenistic period, 3rd century B.C.

Horizontal Section (Eastern side) :

Collection of cylinder seals of various materials exhibited with photographs of their impressions on clay. These seals are displayed here according to chronological order beginning with : Jamdat Nasr, Early Dynastic, Akkadian and Assyrian periods. These seals were normally fit to a string and attached to the belt or worn around the neck. Date range : 3200 — 750 B. C. Various provenances.

(Western side) :

— Collection of amulets and pendant in the form of animals, fish and birds, found at Khafaje, Tell Ajrab, Warka and Telloh and datable to about 2800 B.C.

— Collection of bone objects, e.g. pins, knives, spoons and doll fetishes. Datable to the Parthian period (240 B.C. — 226 A.D.)

— Collection of fine stamp-seals and ring-stones in various precious stones, engraved with religious motives.

HALL No. 3

(Islamic Gallery)

At the corner to the right side :

A water cooler in barbotine pottery ornamented in bas-relief with figures and geometric designs. Found at Sinjar and datable to the 6th Century A.H. (12th Century A.D.).

On the wall (from right to left) :

Gypsum wall decorations originally formed dadoes of the walls of the Abbasid palaces and private houses at Samarra. Datable to the 9th Century A.D. (from the excavations of Iraq Directorate-general of Antiquities.).

Case — 12

Collection of Islamic gold and silver coins arranged (from right to left) in chronological order of ruling dynastics : Umayyad, Abbasid, Samanid, Buwaiyhid, Ghaznawid, Seljujqid Atabegid, Fatimid and Ottoman. (1st — 10th Centuries A.H. = 7th — 16th Centuries A.D.).

Case — 13

Shelf 1 :

Objects in fine glass modelled in various shapes and colours. Discovered at various sites and datable from the 2nd to 8th Centuries A.H. (8th — 14th Centuries A.D.)

Shelves 1 & 2 :

Glazed pottery pots and jars from different provences. (3rd — 6th Century A.H. = 9th — 12th Centuries A.D.)

Shelf 3 :

Stone artifacts including vessels of different shapes. (3rd — 8th Centuries A.H. = 9th — 14th Centuries A.D.)

Shelf 4 :

- Group of rare Islamic vessels, oil-lamps and other glazed pottery wares. Found at Sinjar and other Islamic sites. (8th — 14th Centuries A.D.)·
- "Hand Grenades" in glazed or plain greyish overbacked clay. These vessels were originally filled with explosive or combustible materials and used effectively in offensive or defensive warfare in the 9th Century A.D. They were found at Sinjar.

— Small bowl and jar in porcelain with black decorations under a blue glaze. Also on exhibit is fragment of glazed tile with relief decorations and Arabic inscription. Discovered at Sinjar.

Case — 14

(Vertical section)

Shelf 1 :

Collection of gypsum architectural ornaments found during the excavations of the Directorate-General of Antiquities at an Abbasid palace at Samarra (3rd Century A.H. = 9th Century A.D.).

Shelf 2 :

Specimens of plain and glazed pottery vessels and lamps, discovered at Samarra (3rd Century A.H. = 9th Century A.D.).

Shelf 3 :

— Plain pottery jar and two cups in glazed pottery and glass objects. Discovered at Tikrit during excavations of the Directorate-General of Antiquities. (3rd Century A.H. = 9th Century A.D.).

— Examples of plain and glazed pottery and glass objects including three exquisite jars. Discovered at Tikrit during excavations of the Directorate-General of Antiquities. (7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.).

(Horizontal Section) :

— Miscellaneous objects from Samarra including remarkable plate in fine pettery with relief decorations, a mosaic fragment of coloured glass and two clay figurines. (3rd Centrury A.H. = 9th Century A.D.).

— Two bowls in celadon porcelain, beautifully decorated with human figures and Kufic or Ighoric inscriptions of the Mongol period, discovred at Sinjar. (7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.).

— Fragments of celadon porcelain with beautiful decorations including human figures and inscriptions in addition to other floral and geometrical designs. Discovered at Sinjar (7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.).

On the wall to the right side of the mihrab :

— Top piece : Marble slab with relief ornament and Arabic inscription (in Kufic style) containing a verse from the Holy Koran. Discovered at Panje Ali Mosque, Mosul (7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.) MM. 150.

— Lower row (from right to left)

a. Limestone plaque engraved with eight lines Kufic inscriptions. Discovered at Sinjar. (6th Century A.H. = 12th Century A.D.) MM. 515.

b. Another limestone slab inscribed with the name of king al-Ashraf (1201 — 1237 A.D.) of the Ayubid Dynasty. The inscription also records his construction of a water supply beside the Qadhib al-Ban mosque, Mosul (MM. 514).

c. A tomb stone inscribed with the name "Khaznaward" a bond-maid of Sultan Qutub ud-Din Mawdud, the Atabeg ruler of Sinjar. The date of her death is mentioned in the year 650 A.H. (1252 A.D. Discovered at Mosul. (MM. 508.).

A water-cooler in barbotine pottery ornamented with bas-relief figures and geometric designs. Found in Tell Abu Maria (6th Century A.H. = 12th Century A.D.) MM. 243.

A remarkable **mihrab** carved in bluish Mosul marble, inlaid with bas-relief inscriptions comprising two verses from the Holy Koran and floral designs. Taken from Banat-al-Hassan Mosque, Mosul. (7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.).

On the left side of the **mihrab** :

— (Top piece) : A marble keystone engraved with Arabic inscription mentioning the name of the marker. This piece was recovered from the Great Mosque at Mosul. (6th Century A.H. = 12th Century A.D.). MM. 509.

—— (Lower row) :

a. & b. Two alabaster tomb stones (the first and third) with relief decorations and inscriptions. Recovered from the Qadhib al-Ban Mosque, Mosul. (6th Century A.H. = 12th Century A.D.) MM. 511 & 512.

— Marble slab with bas-relief decorations and inscriptions. Recovered from Qadhib al-Ban Mosque, (8th Century A.H. = 14th Century A.D.) MM. 513.

In the Corner :

Large jar in glazed pottery, ornamented in basrelief with floral designs. Discovered at Wasit and datable to 8th Century A.D.

Case — 15

Collection of various objects discovered during the excavations at Wasit undertaken by the Directorate-General of Antiquities. It comprises jars, plates, pots in plain and glazed pottery. There are also some porcelain and celadon sherds, glass flasks and metal objets. (2nd — 8th Centuries A.H. = 8th — 14th Centuries A.D.).

Case — 16

Shelf 1 :

Two copper bowls, one of them is with a spout. Both of them are decorated with inscriptions and geometrical and floral designs. (9th Century A.H. = 15th Century A.D.).

Shelf 2 :

Bronze astrolabe used by the Arabs in observing the positions and movement of stars. On the reverse is an inscription recording the name of the maker and the year when it was made, namely 1041 A.H. (1631 A.D.). Presented.

Shelf 3 :

— A fine copper Chandelier with Kufic inscription and floral designs. It dates back to the Mamluks' period (Ca. 7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.).

— Collection of copper lamps of various shapes and dates. (3rd — 9th Centuries A.H. = 9th — 15th Centuries A.D.).

Shelf 4 :

— Bronze mortar from Sinjar with Kufic inscription and various decorations. Datable to the Atabegid period in Mosul. (7th Century A.H. = 13th Century A.D.).

— Bronze ink pot and pen holder, datable to about 14th Century A.D.

— Fragment of copper plate inscribed with verses from the Holy Koran. Found at Sinjar and datable to 7th Century A.H. (13th Century A.D.)

On the Wall :

Examples of cut-brick decorations from the "Mirjaniyah School" (Presently known as Mirjan Mosque, Baghdad). This school was built in 758 A.H. (1356 A.D.) by Amin ud-Din Mirjan, the governer of Baghdad in the time of the Jalairid Sultan Owais.

Case — 17

Collection of Islamic coins in silver and copper; displayed from right to left in chronological order of the ruling dynasties. Umayyad, Abbasid, Atabegid, . . . etc.

In the Corner :

A water-cooler in barbotine pottery, ornamented in bas-relief figures and geometrical designs. Found in Sinjar (6th Century A.H. = 12th Century A.D.).

DISCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Southern front of the Mosul Museum.
2. Nimrud : The throne base of the Assyrian King Assurnasirpal II 883—859 B.C.—discovered at his capital Calah (Nimrud). The cuneiform inscription covering its surface gives a summary of his deeds.
3. Nimrud : A cow with its head turned backward presumably it was suckling its calf. Delicately carved on ivory plaque (MM 115—Case 2).
4. Nimrud : A bull in Ivory standing on a base with a punched handle on top of its back probably used to fix a chariot. Discovered at the burnt palace.
5. Side view of a standing figure carved in bas-relief on ivory plaque, probably, representing an Assyrian King or attendant (900—800 B.C.) (MM 127—case 2).
6. Nimrud : Stele of Assurnasirpal II in rare yellow stone engraved with the picture of the king and symbols of Assyrian gods. The cuneiform inscription summarizes the King's achievements (883—859 B.C.) (MM 127—Case 2).
7. Hatra : An alabaster statue portraying a lady named (Sumay) as indicated by the Aramic inscriptions on the base (MM 21—Case 4).
8. Hatra : A king of Hatra. Note the dexterity with which the girdle and garments are executed.
9. Hatra : An alabaster relief depicting a lady presumably representing the moon goddess (100 B.C.) MM 26. Case 8.
10. Hatra : A composite image in high relief found together in one of the temples. The right slab shows the sun god "Maran" the idol of the army. The other slab shows the city's standard in the form of an eagle. (MM 6 and 7).
11. Hatra : Statue of Uthal, king of Hatra as mentioned in the Aramaic inscription on the pedestal (MM 8).
12. Hatra : A marble panel representing in bas-relief Nergool the god of the underworld. To his left is his consort seated on a throne, to his right is the Hatra Banner.

13. Hatra : Stone relief containing the bust of a chieftain from Hatra found with some idols in one of the temples at Hatra (100 B.C. MM 27—Case 9).

14. Hatra : A statue of a young lady from Hatra. Her headdress and bossoms are covered with thin gold foil, with red paint applied to her lips. It was discovered in one of the temples (100 B.C. MM 28—Case 10).

15. Hatra : A warrior in Roman uniform seen holding a spear with one hand and the other hand rests on the hilt of his sword (MM 19—Case 19).

16. Hatra : Marble relief depicting three women and a male figure found at Baalshamin temple (100 B.C. MM 40—Case 20).

17. Tel Harmal : Cast of the code of laws known as the code of Eshnunna Kingdom. The original artifact which is in clay is now on display in the Iraq Museum.

18. Tell Harmal : Cast of the famous clay tablet containing mathematical text which involves geometric problem of similar triangles. It dates back to the old Babylonian period ca. 2000 B.C. Found during the excavations of the Iraq Antiquities Department. The original artifact is now displayed in the Iraq Museum.

19. Nineveh : A bronze head portraying an Akkadian king. The original head, which is now on display in the Iraq Museum, was found at Ishtar temple, Nineveh. 2300 B.C.

20. Ur : Sumerian gold jewellery and other fineries found in the royal tomb at Ur ca. 2600 B.C.

21. Nippur : Copper statue representing king Urnammu as indicated by the inscription thereon. The original is in the Iraq Museum Ca. 2050 B.C. (Room II, Case 10).

22. Samarra : Gypsum wall decorations originally formed dadoes on the walls of private houses. Datable to 3rd Cent. A.H. (9th Cent. A.D.) Excavations of the Iraq Antiquities Department.

23. Mosul : Mihrab carved in bluish marble inlaid with white alabaster and decorated with bas-relief inscriptions of Kuran verses and floral designs. Removed from Banat Al Hasan Mosque, Mosul (700 A.H. 1300 A.D.).

24. Astrolabe in bronze, presented to the Museum. It is one of the astrological instruments used by the Arabs in observing positions of the stars and their movements. The date as recorded on it reads 1041 A.H.

25. Examples of brick decorations extracted from the Mirjan Mosque (Previously known as Mirjan School).



Fig. 1
Front View of Mosul Museum

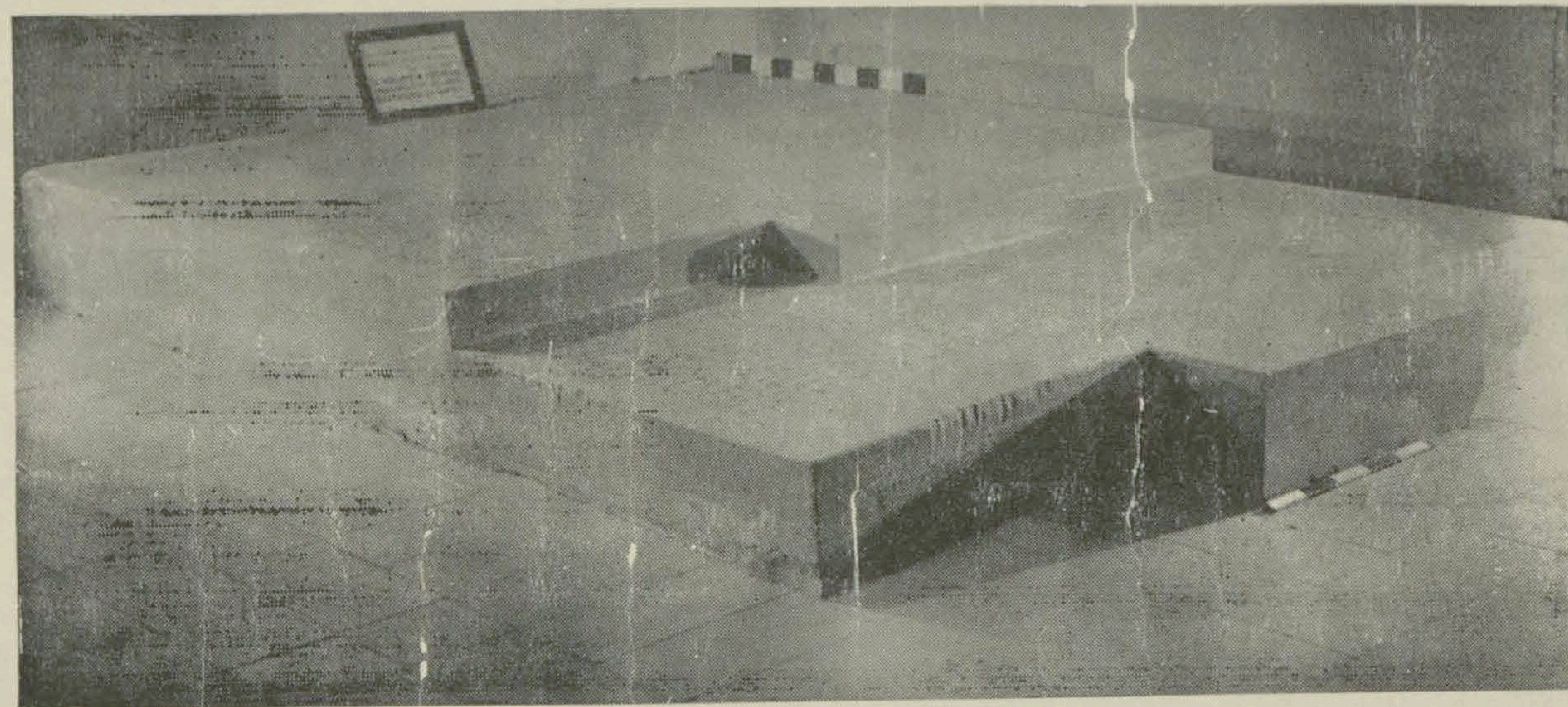


Fig. 2

MM 1

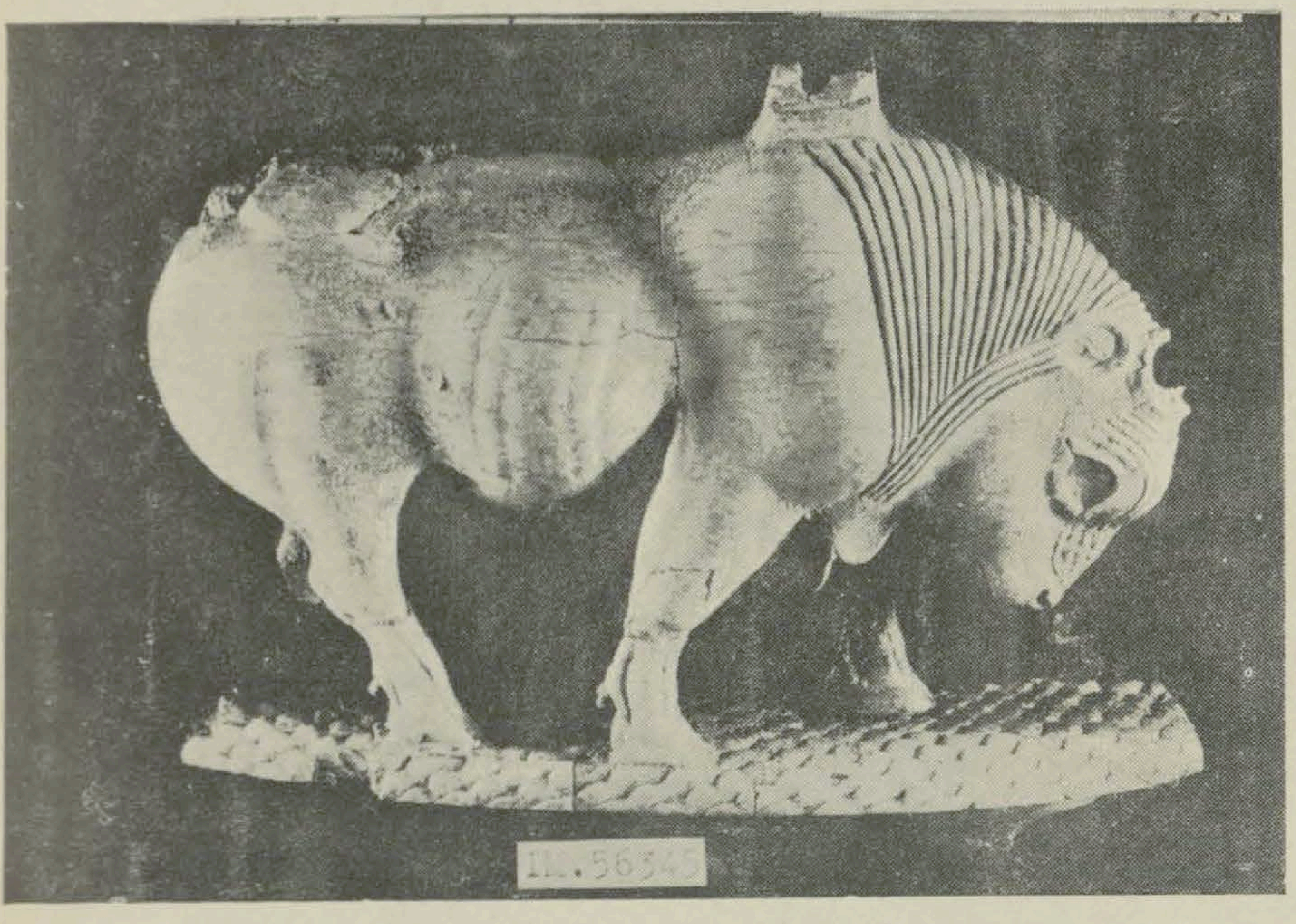
Nimrud — Throne base of King Assurnasirpal II



Fig. 3

MM 115

Nimrud — Cow Carved on Ivory pleque



MM 128

Fig. 4

Nimrud — Bull of Ivory standing on base



MM 127

Fig. 5

Nimrud — Ivory Plaque with Figure in bas-relief



MM 3

Fig. 6
Nimrud — Stele of Assurnasirpal II



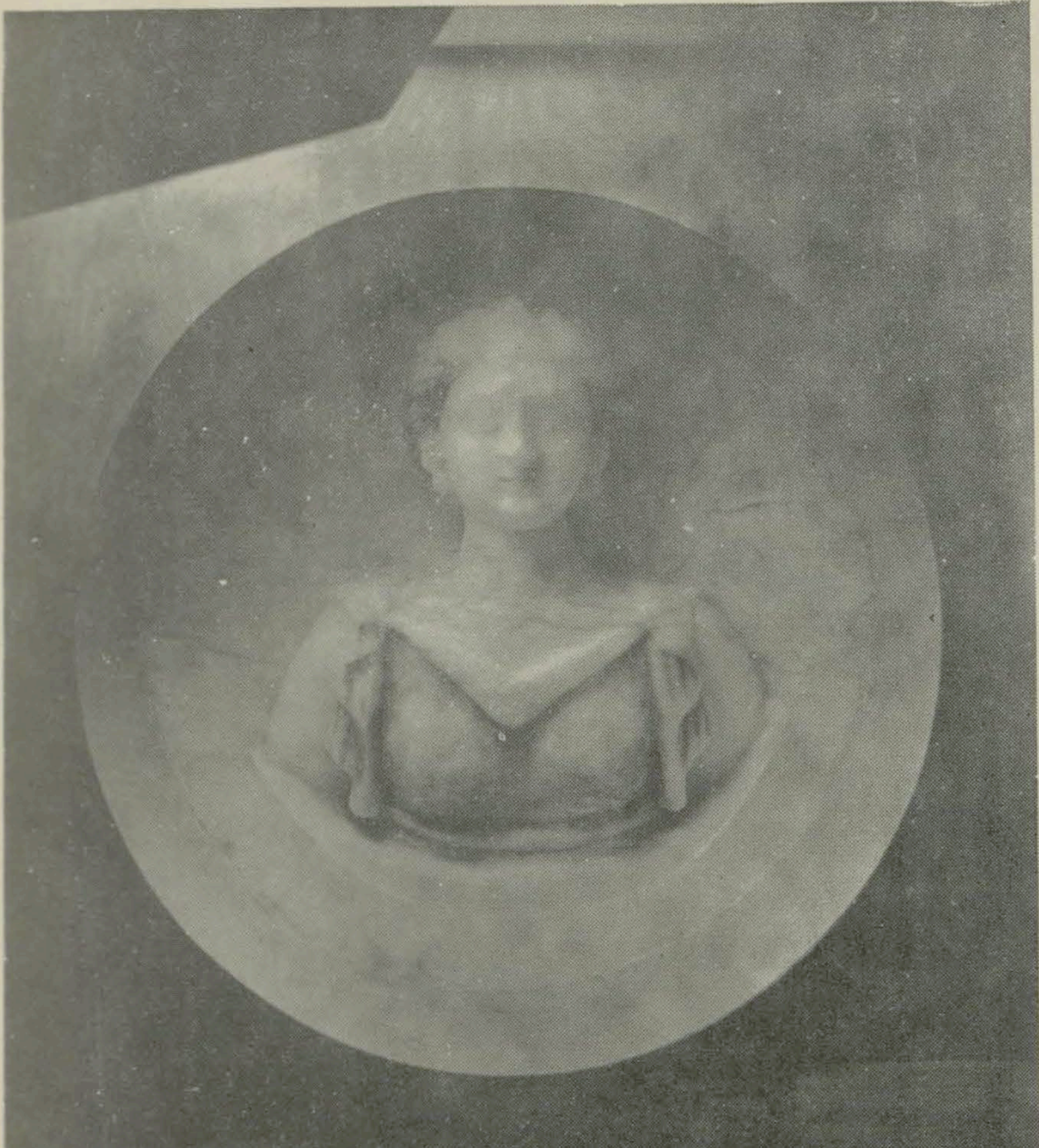
MM 21

Fig. 7
Hatra — Sumay, an alabaster statue



MM 5

Fig. 8
Hatra — A King of Hatra



MM 26

Fig. 9
Hatra — Alabaster relief of a lady



MM - 6, 7

Fig. 10

Hatra — Haran the sun god to the right and to the left the City's standard



MM 8

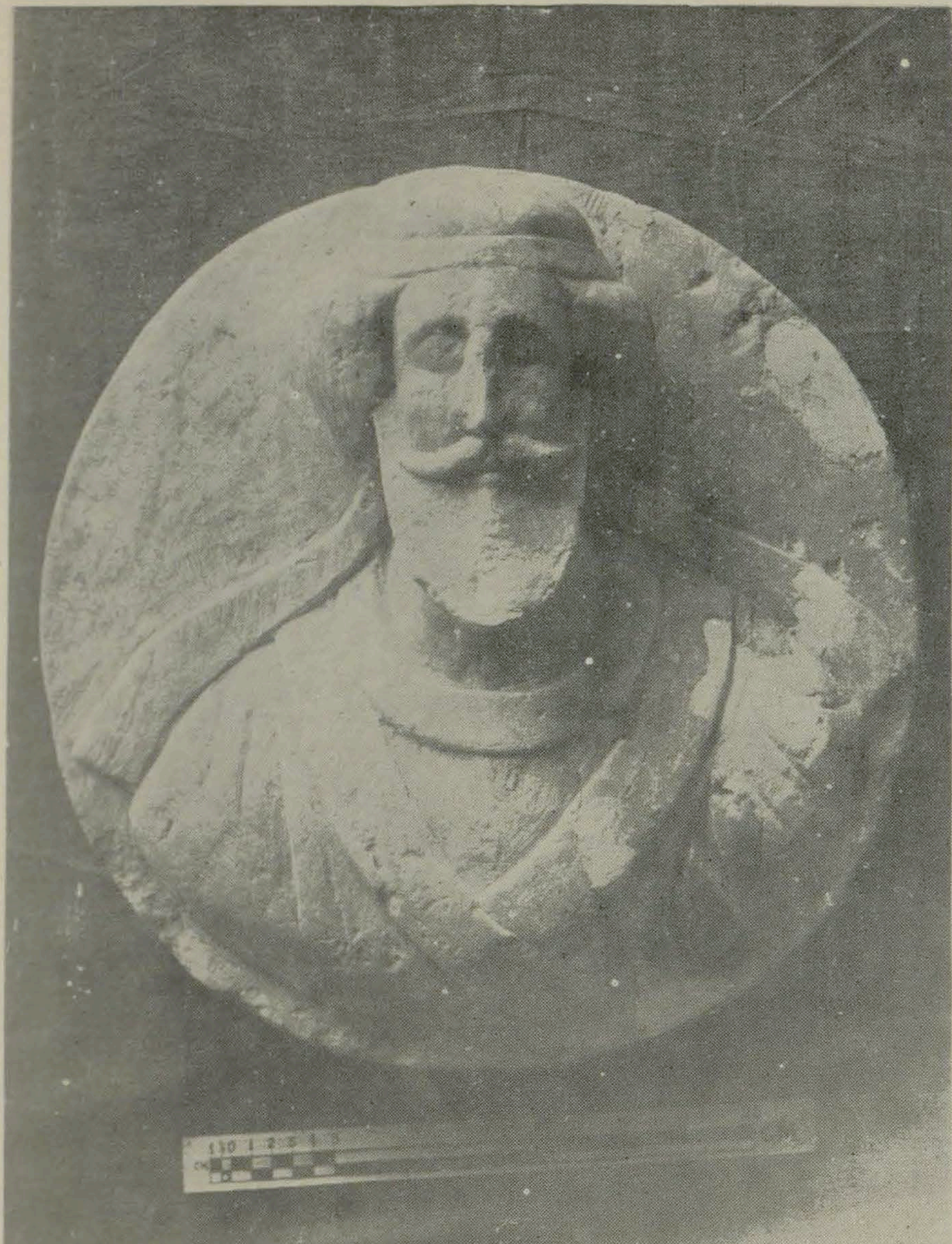
Fig. 11
Hatra — Statue of Uthal



MM 11

Fig. 12

Hatra — Nergool, god of the under-world, to his right the Hatra banner, to his left his consort.



MM 27

Fig. 13
Hatra — Chieftain on stone relief



MM 28

Fig. 14

Hatra — Statue of a young lady



MM 19

Fig 15

Hatra — Warrior in Roman uniform



MM 40

Fig. 16
Hatra — Three Women and a male figure in marble relief

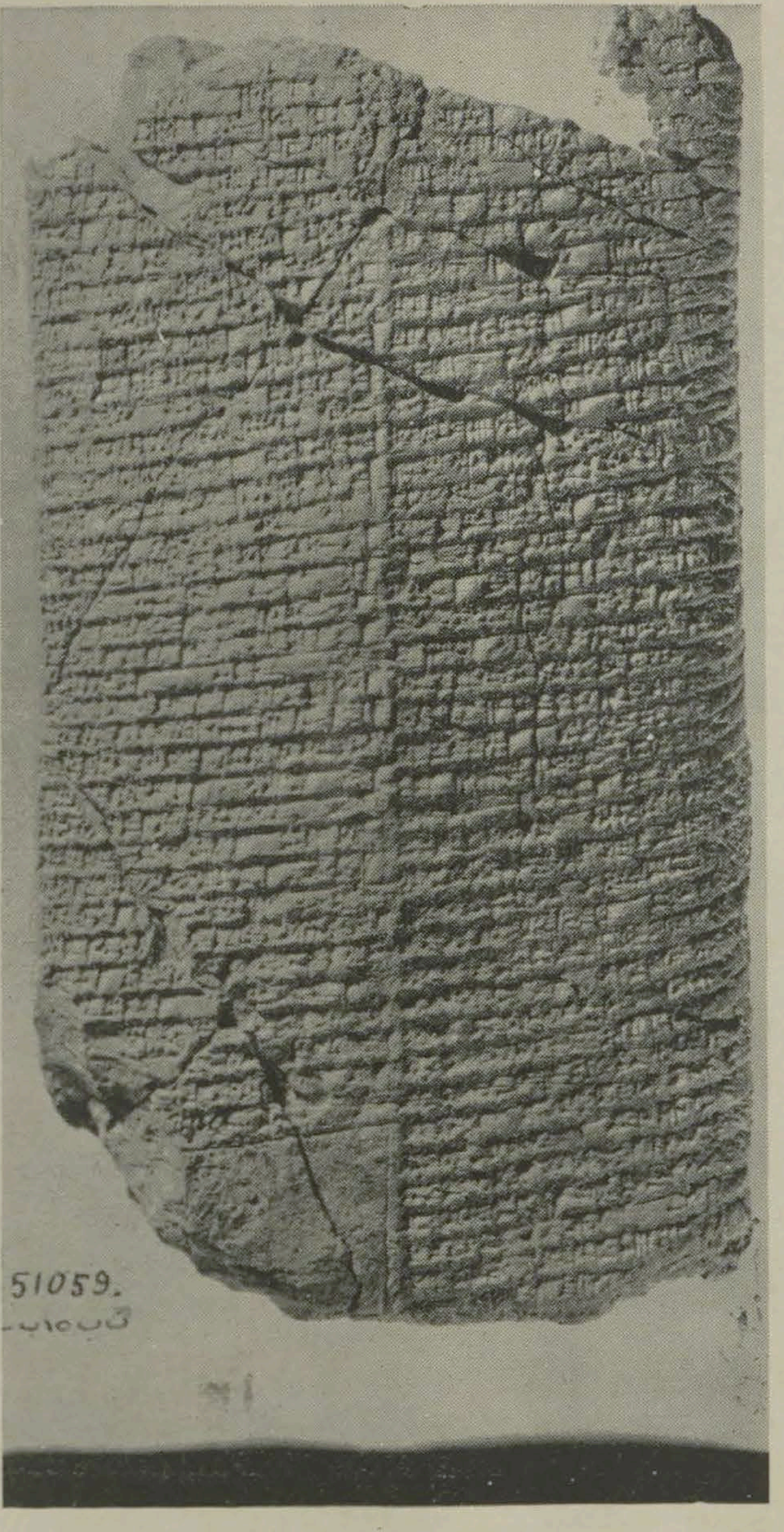


Fig. 17
Tell Harmal — Code of Eshnunna

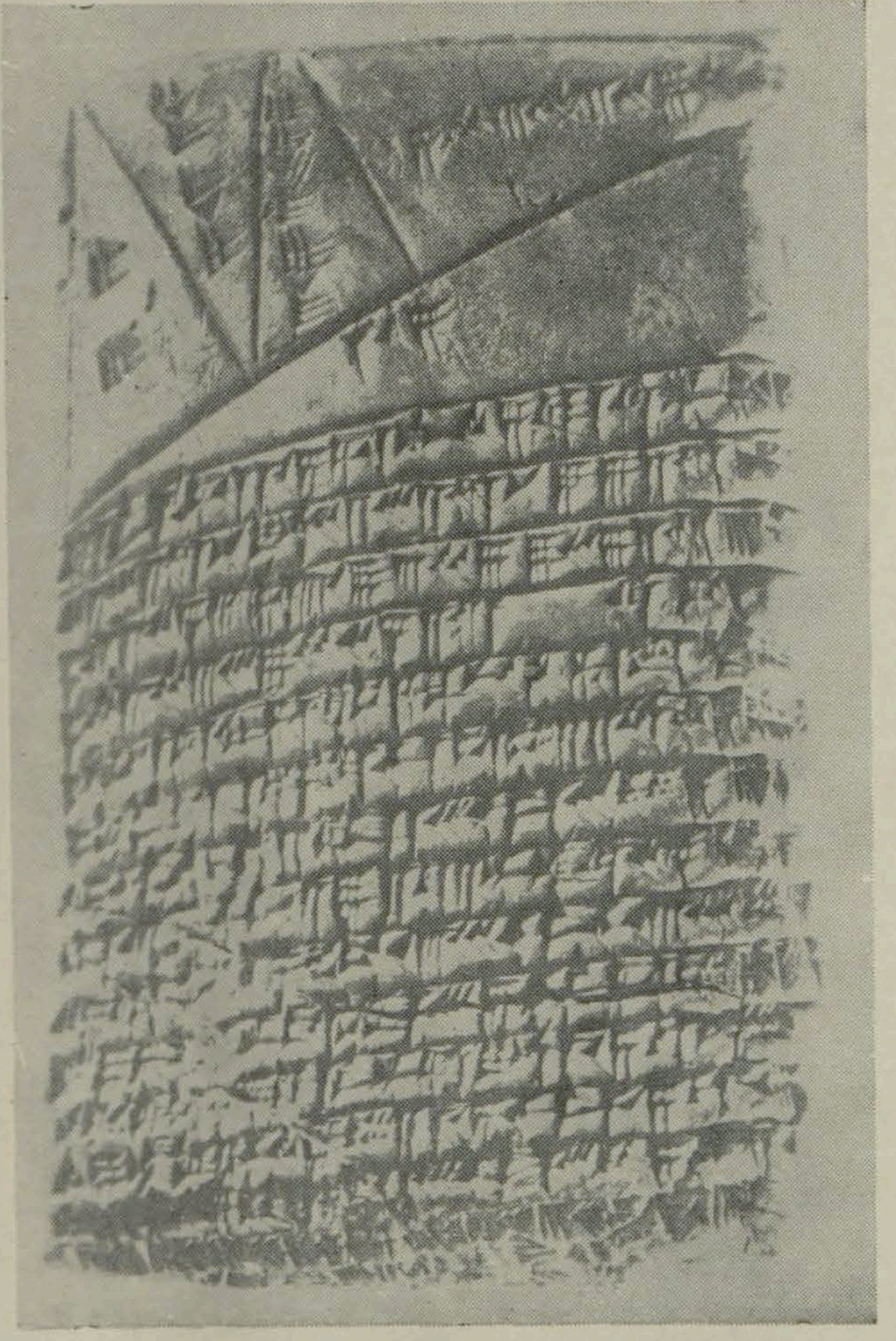


Fig. 18
Tell Harmal — The famous mathenatical text



Fig. 19

Nineveh — Akkadian bronze head



Fig. 20
Ur — Sumerian jewellery and fineries



Fig. 21

Nippur — Urnammu, a copper statue

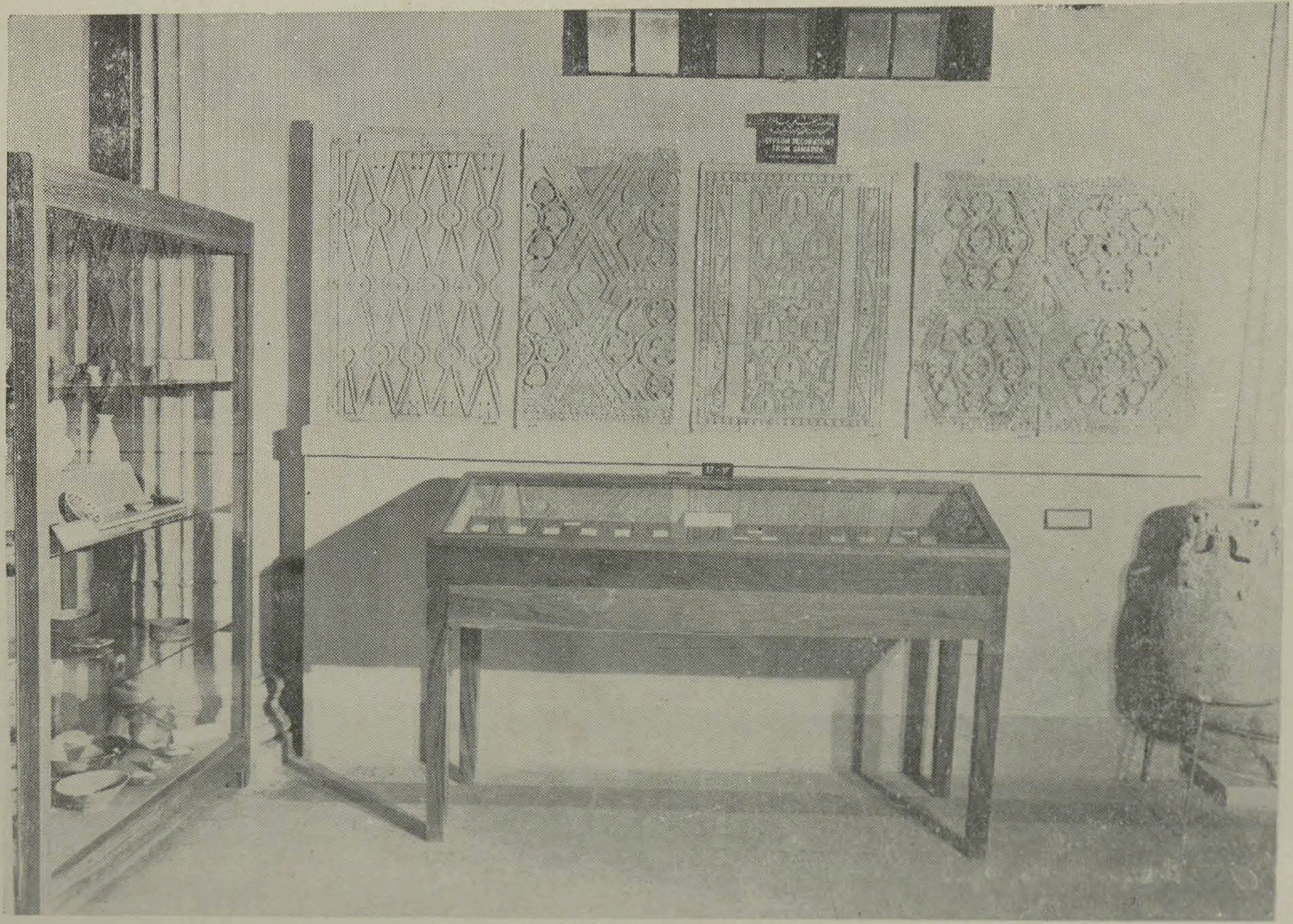


Fig. 22
Samarra — Gypsum wall decorations

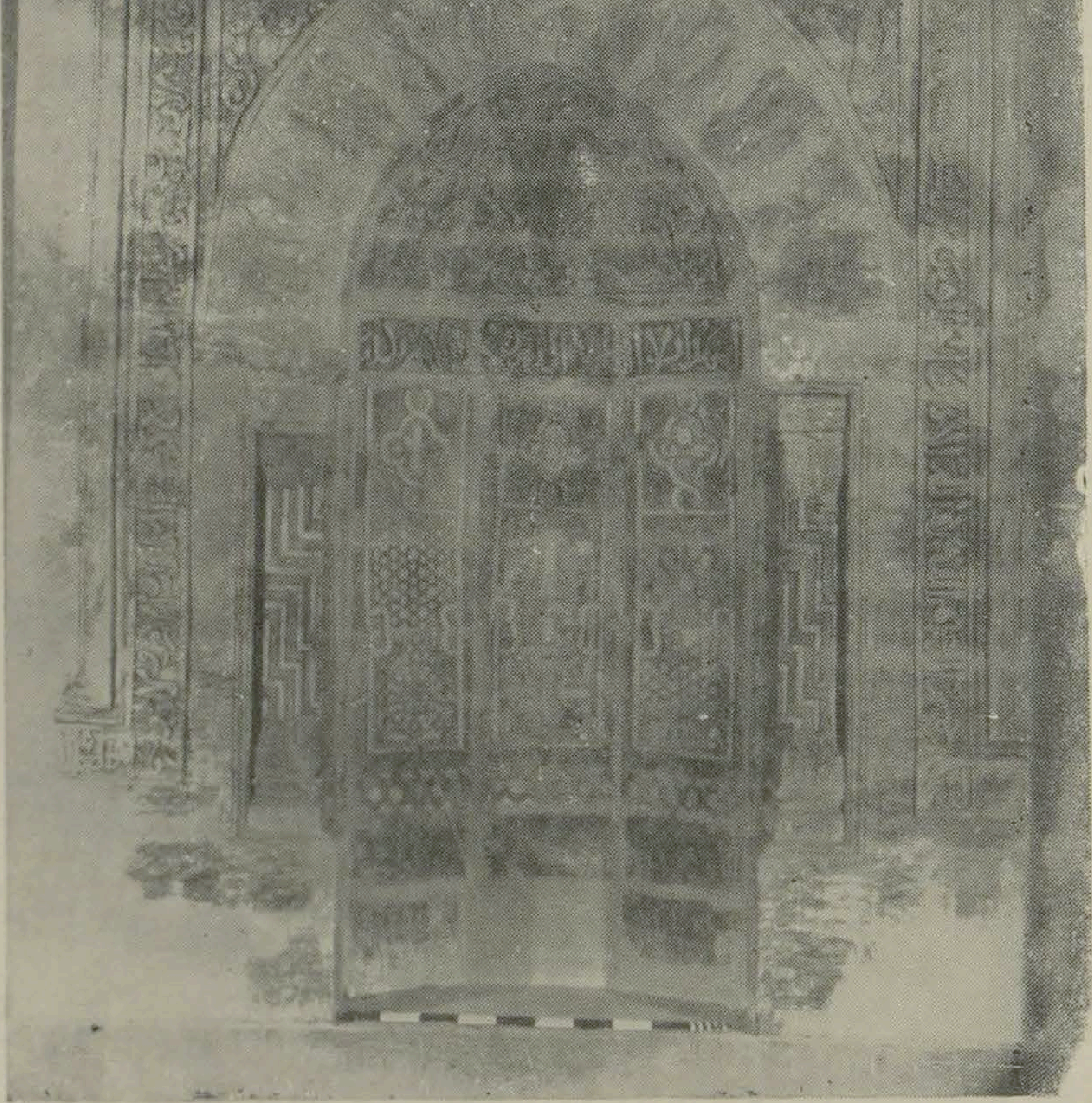


Fig. 23

Mosul — Mihrab from Banat Al Hasan Mosque

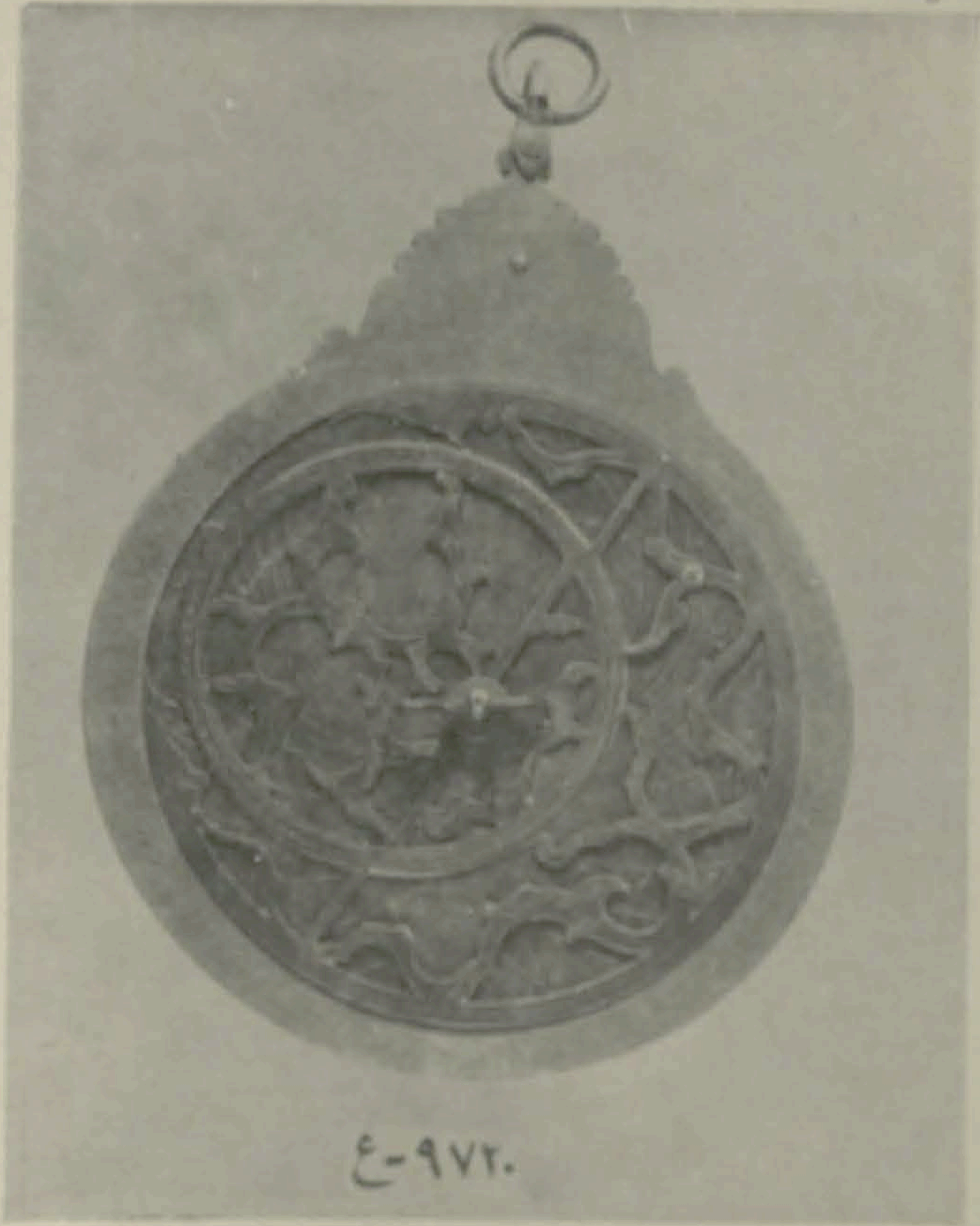


Fig. 24

Astrolabe in Bronze

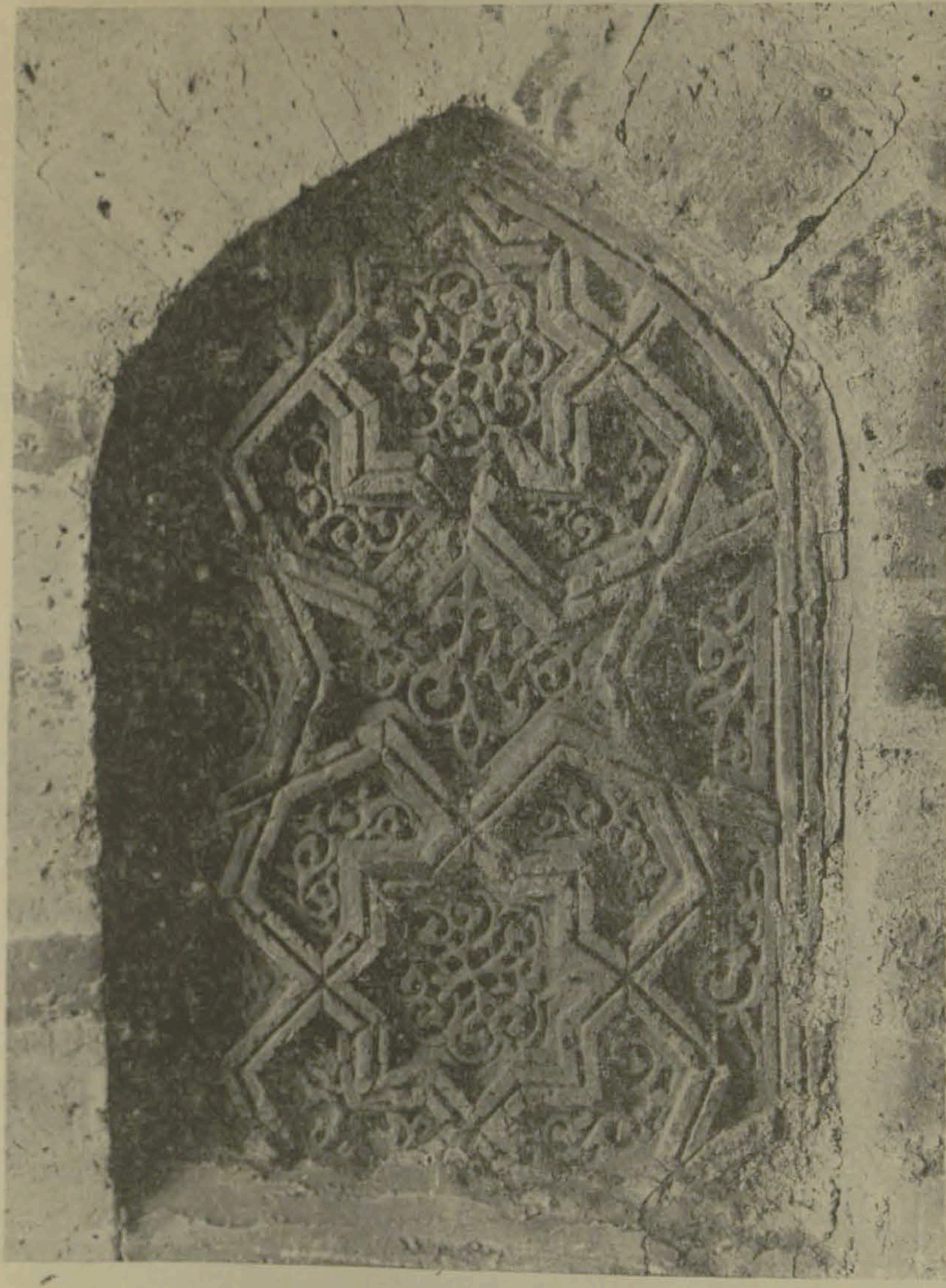


Fig. 25

Baghdad : Brick decoration from Mirjan Mosque.